[MOP9/D9] DEFINITION OF MIGRATORY POPULATIONS (JAPAN)

Introduction

1. The purpose of East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) is to provide a flyway wide framework to promote dialogue, cooperation and collaboration among a range of stakeholders to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

2. The definition of 'Migratory waterbird' is provided in Appendix II of the EAAFP Partnership document (page 10) adopted on 6 November 2006, as follows:

   For the purposes of the Partnership:

   1. *'Migratory waterbird' means the East Asian – Australasian Flyway population of any species or lower taxon of waterbirds of the taxonomic groups identified in Appendix III, a significant proportion** [1] *of whose members cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries.*

3. This definition has functioned well for the most part since the establishment of EAAFP in 2006. In the meantime, some issues have been identified in relation to applying the definition.

4. In accordance with Paragraph 9(9) of the EAAFP Partnership document, a Task Force on the definition of 'migratory waterbird' (TF) under EAAFP was established at MOP8 in 2015 in order to look at the issues. The TF makes the following observations and recommendations for the consideration of MOP9.

5. First of the issues identified, there are some sites within the Flyway Site Network (FSN) for crane populations which do not migrate across national jurisdictional boundaries. These sites were formally a part of the Crane Site Network under the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy (APMWCS) which was the predecessor of the EAAFP. Crane Network sites were designated regardless of the migratory habit of crane populations. According to the Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Cranes in the North East Asian Flyway, a part of APMWCS, there was no criterion regarding a species' migratory habit for a site's nomination. In accordance with Paragraph 3 (2) of the Partnership document, all Crane Network sites as well as Anatidae and Shorebird Network sites under the APMWCS were invited to become part of the EAAFP FSN without further validation according to transitional guidelines. As a result, the EAAFP FSN covers the population of Red-crowned Crane *Grus japonensis* in Japan which is considered to be sedentary and does not meet the definition of 'migratory waterbird', even though the species is migratory in other parts of its range*[2].

6. Second, there is no guidance for how to deal with the following waterbird populations that might

*[1] TF discussed about what proportion is significant in this context. It concluded that recognising the ongoing process within CMS for development of such a definition for adoption at CMS COP12 in Nov 2017, the Partnership may deal with this issue at our next MOP.

*[2] For information, Sarus Crane *Grus antigone* in Myanmar is also considered to migrate within national boundary only. Some of its habitats, i.e. Indawgyi and Moeyungyi, are included within FNS based on other species which meet the definition of 'migratory waterbird'.

be covered under EAAFP:

- Those which lose the migratory habit due to a significant decrease in population size, but are recovering migratory habits as well as undergoing an increase in population size as a result of conservation efforts.
- Those which are likely to meet the definition but have not been proven to do so.
- Those species for which a portion of the population migrates across national boundaries but only to countries outside the EAAF.

As an example of the first case, a Japanese native population of Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana* became extinct in the wild in 1971 and a reintroduction project using artificially bred individuals has been conducted since 2005. Currently, the wild population is growing in number and some individuals move between Japan and South Korea. There is thus a possibility to recover their migration in East Asia. As for the second case, a trial review reveals that 37 species*[3] including Malaysian Plover *Charadrius peronii* and Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana* have the potential to migrate across national jurisdictional boundaries in the EAAF. For the third case, the Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis* migrates in substantial numbers from China to winter in Bhutan and the whole breeding population in India migrates to China; Bhutan and India, however, are outside the EAAF region according to the Partnership document.

Action requested from the Meeting of the Partners to endorse the following recommendations:

1. The Meeting of the Partners (MOP) notes the following definition of 'Migratory waterbird' which is provided in Appendix II, Partnership document adopted on 6 November 2006.

For the purposes of the Partnership:

'Migratory waterbird' means the East Asian – Australasian Flyway population of any species or lower taxon of waterbirds of the taxonomic groups identified in Appendix III, a significant proportion of whose members cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries.

2. The MOP reaffirms its commitment to Paragraph 3 (2) of the Partnership Document, as adopted on 6 November 2006.

The Anatidae, Crane and Shorebird Network sites under the APMWCS will be invited to become part of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Site Network without further validation according to transitional guidelines.

3. The MOP acknowledges that the population of Red-crowned Crane in Japan does not migrate across national jurisdictional boundaries, yet has been covered due to the transition of Crane Network sites under APMWCS into the FSN under the EAAFP, this population continues to be covered within the activities related to FSN; no new sites may be added to FSN on the basis of this non-migratory populations.

4. The MOP may give approval for any of the following migratory waterbird populations to be included in an appropriate taxonomic group listed in Annex III of the EAAFP document upon request of the relevant Government Partner(s) or other Partner(s). Such a request should be submitted in writing by providing evidence/justification for inclusion of an additional population.

1) migratory populations in which a significant proportion regularly cross national boundaries

*[3] See the Annex.

but in doing so leave the EAAF region (sites for these species within EAAF can be added to the FSN);

2) recovering populations that have lost but may regain their migratory behavior (their sites, however, cannot be added to the FSN until a regular migratory pattern of a significant proportion of the population has been established); and

3) populations that may regularly migrate across national boundaries but have not yet been proven to do so (their sites cannot be added to the FSN without confirmed information about the migrations of these populations. they will be totally covered in the framework of EAAFP when their regular migration is confirmed).

[MOP9/D9.1] Potentially Migratory Species Identified by a Trial Review

The below is the list of the species which are found in more than one countries in EAA Flyway and may move across national borders, but have not been proved to do so. This list does not distinguish biogeographic populations although some species such as Greater Adjutant and Wandering Whistling-duck are separated into two or more populations.

Listing is based on the result of a trial review done by Simba Chan, BirdLife International Tokyo, in 2016. It should be noted that this list was prepared just as an information for Partners for the consideration of TF's Recommendations at MOP9.

Family name	Scientific name	Common name
Pelecanidae: pelicans	*Pelecanus philippensis*	Spot-billed Pelican
Phalacrocoracidae: cormorants	*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*	Indian Cormorant
	Phalacrocorax melanoleucos	Little Pied Cormorant
	Phalacrocorax niger	Little Cormorant
	Anhinga melanogaster	Oriental Darter
Ardeidae: herons, egrets and bitterns	*Ardea insignis*	White-bellied Heron
	Ardea sumatrana	Great-billed Heron
	Ardea goliath	Goliath Heron
	Ardeola grayii	Indian Pond-heron
	Egretta sacra	Pacific Reef-egret
	Nycticorax caledonicus	Rufous Night-heron
Ciconiidae: storks	*Mycteria cinerea*	Milky Stork
	Ciconia episcopus	Woolly-necked Stork
	Ciconia stormi	Storm's Stork
	Leptoptilos javanicus	Lesser Adjutant
	Leptoptilos dubius	Greater Adjutant
Threskiornithidae: ibises and spoonbills	*Thaumatibis gigantea*	Giant Ibis
	Nipponia nippon	Asian Crested Ibis
Anatidae: swans, geese and ducks	*Dendrocygna bicolor*	Fulvous Whistling-duck
	Dendrocygna arcuata	Wandering Whistling-duck
	Tadorna cristata	Crested Shelduck
	Sarkidiornis melanotos	Comb Duck
	Anas gibberifrons	Sunda Teal
	Rhodonessa caryophyllacea	Pink-headed Duck
Rallidae: rails, gallinules, coots	*Gallirallus philippensis*	Buff-banded Rail
	Amaurornis bicolor	Black-tailed Crake
	Porzana tabuensis	Spotless Crake
	Porzana cinerea	White-browed Crake
	Porphyrio porphyrio	Purple Swamphen

Heliornithidae: Finfoots	*Heliopais personatus*	Masked Finfoot
Jacanidae	*Metopidius indicus*	Bronze-winged Jacana
Glareolidae	*Glareola lactea*	Small Pratincole
Charadriidae	*Charadrius peronii*	Malaysian Plover
Laridae: gulls, terns, skimmers	*Sterna sumatrana*	Black-naped Tern
	Procelsterna cerulea	Blue Noddy
	Gygis alba	Common White Tern
	Rynchops albicollis	Indian Skimmer